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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

folio

Volume 40 Issue 11

FEBRUARY 7, 2003

http://www.ualberta.ca/folio

Perfecting the path to perfection

Some athletes aren't satisfied with an imperfect win

By **Phoebe Dey**

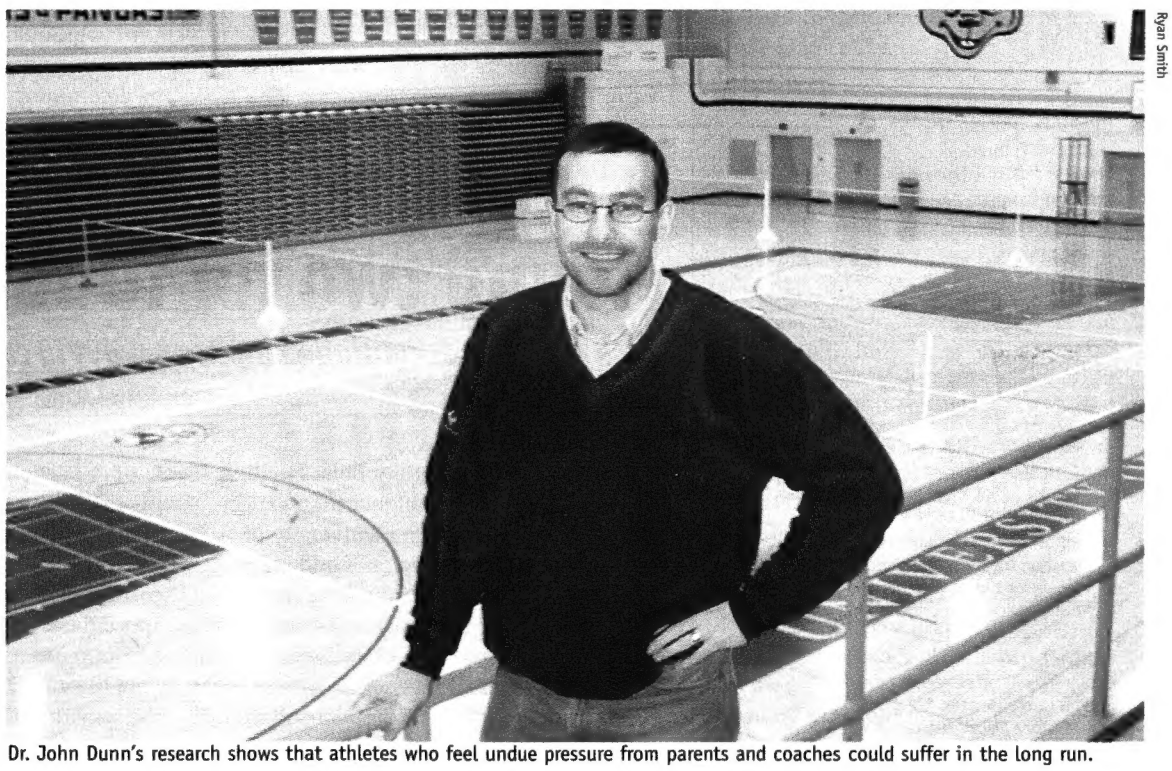
Every athlete dreams of the perfect performance, but how that perfectionism is attained is critical, says a University of Alberta researcher. Dr. John Dunn, a sport psychologist who researches motivation theory, has found that athletes who perceive undue pressure from parents and coaches will suffer in the long run.

Dunn studied 174 teenage football players to investigate the idea of perfectionism in sport. He created a tool that measured several components of perfectionism, such as perceived parental pressure, setting personal goals, and feelings about making mistakes during competition. Dunn found that two types of perfectionism exist: adaptive (healthy) perfectionism and maladaptive (unhealthy) perfectionism. In other words, there is a good way to try to excel, and a poor way.

Dunn discovered that athletes with an adaptive motivational pattern tended to set moderately high personal standards, and at the same time they recorded low perceived parental pressure, low concern over mistakes, and low perceived coach pressure. In contrast, athletes who had high personal standards and high perceived parental pressure, high concern over mistakes, and high perceived coach pressure had the most maladaptive motivational patterns in the study.

"Maladaptive perfectionists can still achieve high levels of performance, but these people are motivated by failure and by fear of messing up," said Dunn, lead author of a paper published in the Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology in January. "With that negative motivation comes anxiety and stress. That person is often drained and rarely feels a sense of satisfaction of doing well. In the long-term, that person is at risk of burning out."

> "Tiger Woods may not have shot the best round of his life to win a major tournament, but when he is asked, he is still happy he won. A maladaptive perfectionist would not be able to enjoy that victory because he would be concentrating on a missed putt."
>
> – Dr. John Dunn



Ryan Smith

Dr. John Dunn's research shows that athletes who feel undue pressure from parents and coaches could suffer in the long run.

Currently, many parents and coaches set standards that many athletes are actually unable to meet, said Dunn. "We should challenge athletes, but the standards must be achievable," he said. "If they aren't, we run the risk of the athletes not achieving the goal, and they will never find satisfaction in anything they do. We want them to come back more and more but if there is no satisfaction in the sport, they won't."

Dunn cites athletes like Wayne Gretzky and Tiger Woods as examples of healthy perfectionists. Looking at their practice behaviour and the pure joy they receive from their sports shows they have their heads on straight and are motivated by positive factors.

"Tiger Woods may not have shot the best round of his life to win a major tournament, but when he is asked, he is still happy he won," said Dunn. "A maladaptive perfectionist would not be able to enjoy that victory because he would be concentrating on a missed putt."

Dunn's other research projects include the examination of the relationship between perfectionism and anger in high-performance male youth football and hockey players and between perfectionism and body image in Canadian female figure skaters. ■



How do people shop online?

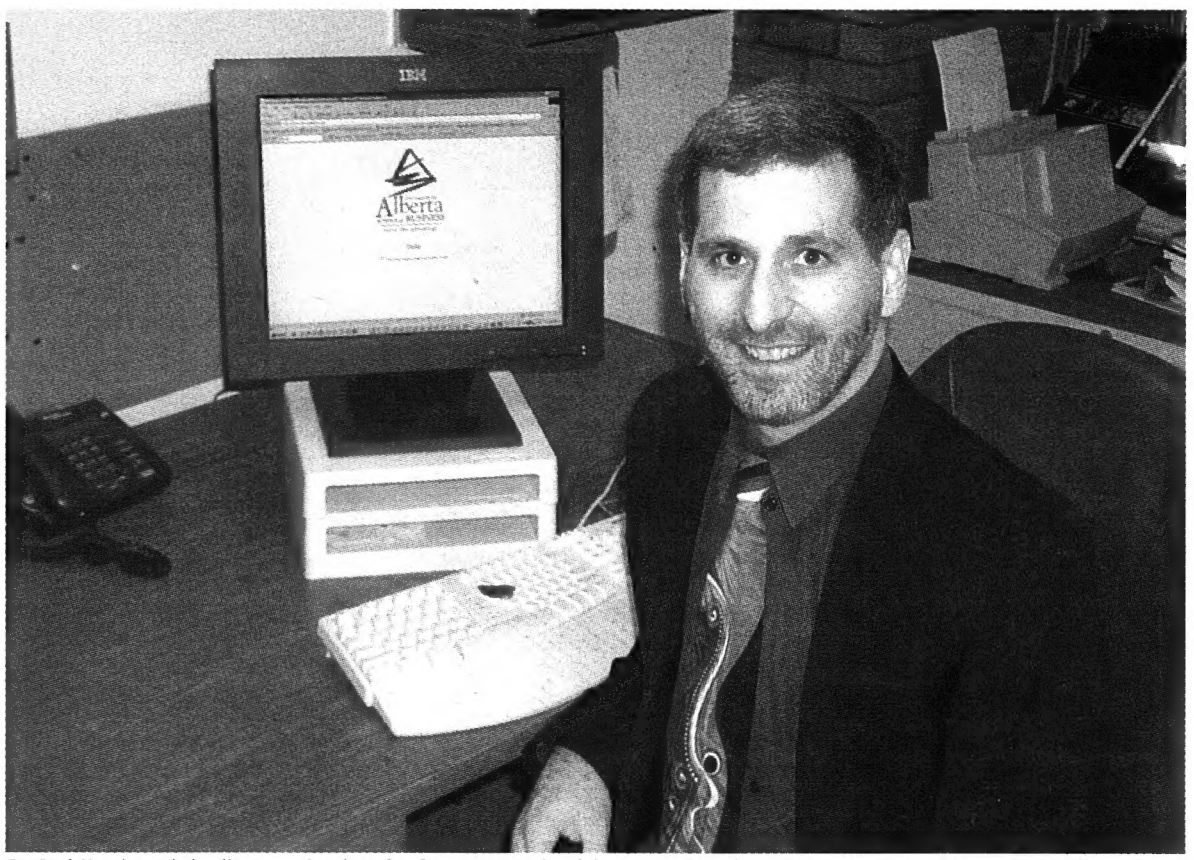
Grant supports e-commerce exploration

By **Ryan Smith**

University of Alberta business professor Dr. Paul Messinger is leading a nationwide study to better understand e-commerce, the practice of buying and selling on the Internet. Six other U of A professors, four from the School of Business and two from the Department of Computing Science, are involved in the project, which recently received $865,000 in support from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

The study, which is expected to take three years to complete, has four main components: how customers are attracted to e-commerce Web site; how the customers interact with the sites; how customers make orders or bids on the sites; and how to measure the outcomes and loyalties of e-commerce customers.

"We plan to develop a better understanding of customers' decision-making processes as they use e-commerce sites. From that we'll be able to make recommendations to Canadian businesses, customers, and governments to improve Web management and e-commerce competitiveness in Canada," said Messinger, who is also the director of the Canadian Institute of Retailing and Services.



Dr. Paul Messinger is leading a national study of e-commerce involving researchers from six universities working with 14 different Canadian retailers.

> "It costs half-a-million dollars and up for a business to develop e-commerce capability, so most of the retailers we deal with are finding e-commerce is not cost effective for them. However, they're still very interested in learning more about it,"
>
> — Dr. Paul Messinger

"It costs half-a-million dollars and up for a business to develop e-commerce capability, so most of the retailers we deal with are finding e-commerce is not cost effective for them. However, they're still very interested in learning more about it," Messinger said.

For the study, researchers from six universities across Canada, under Messinger's direction, will work with 14 different Canadian retailers.

"The retailers we work with have a variety of interests in e-commerce. The Forzani Group, for example, really wants to sell sporting equipment on the Internet. The Henry Singer Fashion Group, on the other hand, is not as interested in selling online as it is in using the Internet and e-mail to build and maintain a loyal customer base," Messinger said.

Krysyna McMillian is a marketing assistant with Campers Village, one of the retailers involved in the study. The recent U of A graduate (BComm '01), said Campers Village has recently withdrawn its e-commerce component.

"We learned the hard way it wasn't cost effective for us—it took up too much of our staff members' time, and there were a lot of shipping-related problems we didn't expect...We still have a Web presence, but we rely on direct person-to-person sales now," she said.

"I think this study will definitely help us streamline our business and make informed choices," she added. "We can learn from the experiences of other Canadian businesses, and there's no other way we'd be able to do that." ■

folio

Volume 40 Number 11

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
(EXTERNAL RELATIONS)
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS,
6TH FLOOR GENERAL SERVICES BUILDING
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA,
EDMONTON, ALBERTA T6G 2H1

LEE ELLIOTT: Director, Office of Public Affairs

RICHARD CAIRNEY: Editor

GEOFF MCMASTER: Assistant Editor

CONTRIBUTORS:
Richard Cairney, Al Cook, Phoebe Dey, Jane Hurly, Andy Knight, Geoff McMaster, Stephen Osadetz, Ryan Smith

GRAPHIC DESIGN:
Marion McFall, Penny Snell, Jennifer Windsor

Folio's mandate is to serve as a credible news source for the University community by communicating accurate and timely information about issues, programs, people and events and by serving as a forum for discussion and debate. *Folio* is published 20 times per year.

The editor reserves the right to limit, select, edit and position submitted copy and advertisements. Views expressed in *Folio* do not necessarily reflect University policy. *Folio* contents may be printed with acknowledgement.

Inquiries,
comments and letters should be directed to Richard Cairney, editor, 492-0439
richard.cairney@ualberta.ca

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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

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Round two for funding solutions

Task force needs continued input on ways to cut costs, increase revenue

By **Richard Cairney**

With skyrocketing utility bills, swelling benefits costs and higher than expected salary settlements, the University of Alberta is asking faculty, staff and students for continued help in eliminating its structural deficit. And administrators are open to all ideas on ways to reduce costs and find new sources of revenue.

During the first round of consultation, the Funding Solutions Task Force, co-chaired by Dr. Art Quinney (Deputy Provost) and Nazim Merali (Associate Vice-President, Finance), reviewed suggestions that identified a hefty $14 million in savings and new revenue over the next four years – $5.5 million in cost savings and $8.6 million in revenues. The total goal of combined savings and revenues of $24 million is several million dollars away, however, as the Task Force begins its second round of consultation.

"It's the old notion that the people working on the shop floor have very good ideas about how their jobs can be done more effectively," Quinney said of the process.

Some of the suggestions put forward last year are now being implemented. One measure is a plan to buy university computer equipment and software from a single source. The idea is that with the volume of computer-related purchases made by the U of A, significant savings could be made by going to a single provider.

And that's just what's being done. Lorraine Ulmer, team leader of supply operations, says that if everyone at the U of A participates in the single-source program, the U of A will save $422,000 every year.

There are exceptions to the plan, of course, that allow researchers who need specialized equipment to purchase their equipment and software elsewhere.

Other FSTF recommendations about the way the U of A handles its investments will have even greater impact. New endowment investment policies will increase university revenues by nearly $2 million per year, according to Ron Ritter, assistant director and treasurer with financial services.

Spending less and earning more on investments are fine. But not all of the recommendations were as well received. Late last year campus parking fees were increased against loud protest from faculty, staff and students.

"We did see a significant pushback on the parking fees and we do realize that not all of these ideas are popular," said Quinney. "But these may be better than across-the-board cuts to academic units that take aim at our academic mission. If we can save some faculty positions or support positions that are clearly related to teaching and research – that is what this is all about."

Quinney said results are needed. The university is presently projecting a $7.9-million deficit in the upcoming budget, even with an additional one-per-cent spending cut in addition to cuts of 1.2 per cent to faculties and 1.5 per cent to administrative units already in place. (The proposed budget goes to the Board Finance and Property Committee March 3 and to the Board of Governors March 14.)

Quinney predicts the new round of consultation will present more of a challenge because the FSTF first round took advantage of obvious initiatives.

"This is a very open invitation to the campus," he said of the second round of consultations. "We are saying 'keep giving us your ideas and we will do the homework on whether they are worth following up.'

"This is not something a small group of people in University Hall is going to solve, and we are committed to engaging all of the ideas that come in."

To get in touch with the FSTF contact Von Whiting at 2-9944, Art Quinney at 2-8182 or Nazim Merali at 2-2656, or visit the task force Web site at www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/funding . ■

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Afraid of women? Fuhgedaboudit!

Scholar says series is on par with Shakespeare

By **Geoff McMaster**

In the opening shot of the first episode of *The Sopranos*, mob boss Tony Soprano is shown fidgeting nervously in the background as he puzzles over a pair of legs in the foreground. As the shot widens, we see that the bronzed legs belong to a female nude sculpture in the office of his psychotherapist.

According to Dr. Maurice Yacowar, author of the book *The Sopranos on the Couch: Analyzing Television's Greatest Series*, that scene embodies the overarching theme of the award-winning television show about Mafia life in New Jersey.

"The first register of the series is a man discomfited by a representation of the feminine," said Yacowar. "Women he can handle, if they are subservient to him, powerless, manipulable, exploitable. But pull a woman out of that context and present her as a work of art, an abstraction of the human experience, and he can't handle it."

Nor can Tony handle a "female equivalent" of himself, such as the female mob boss he meets in Italy. "He can't even have sex with her," said Yacowar, "because he's not used to having sex with a woman of power."

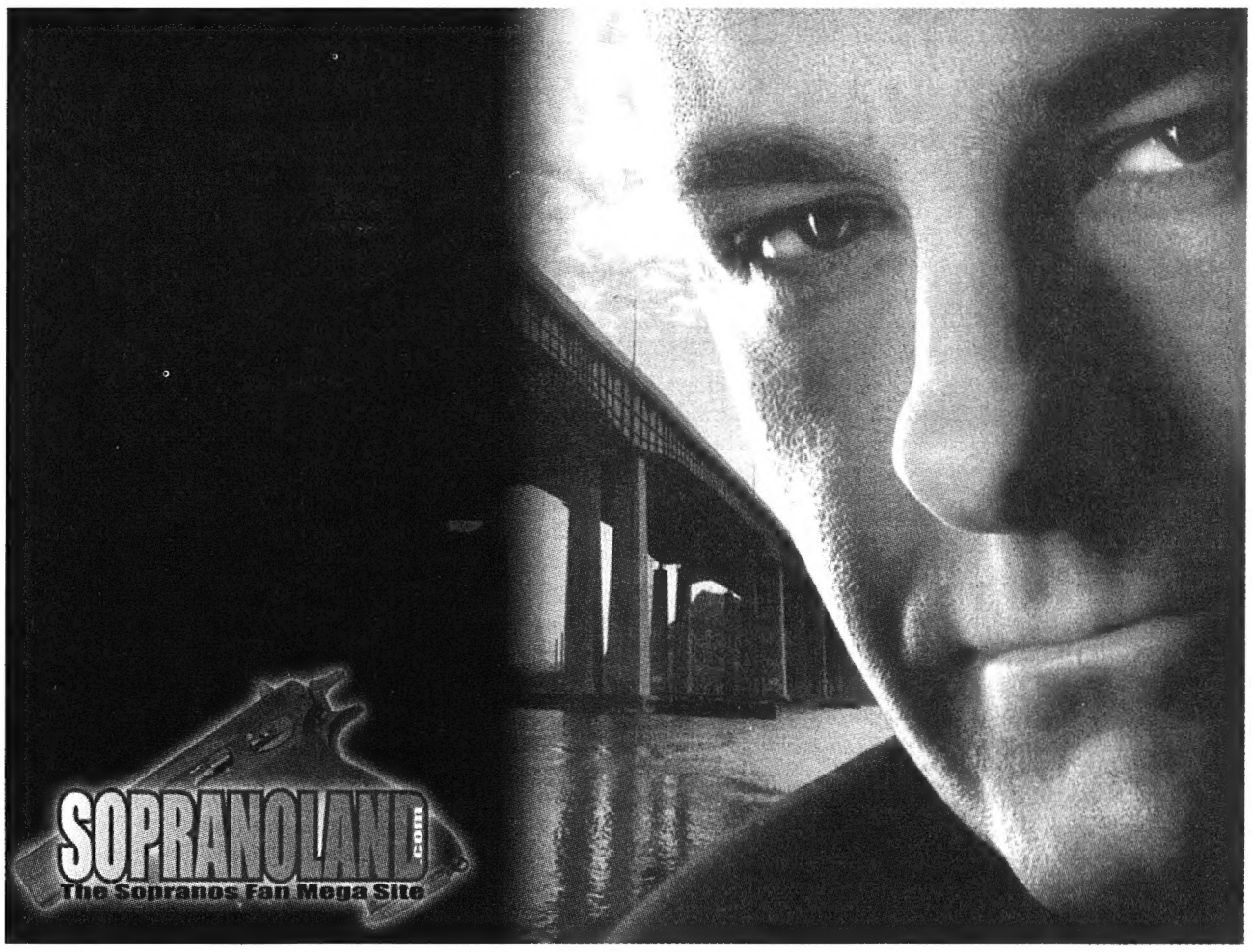
The controversial television series juxtaposes the violent drama of mafia life with the mundane routine of family life. And from scene one onward, in various and complex ways, the show explores "the male discomfiture in contemplating the feminine." In fact all of the male characters, says Yacowar, are in some way defined by their dis-ease with feminine power and values.

The U of C film studies professor and U of A alumnus (English MA, '63), was on campus Wednesday to present the second in the English Department's *Culture on the Edge* lecture series. Yacowar also teaches a gangster film course at the U of C based on *The Sopranos* and other greats of the genre, such as the Godfather movies and *Public Enemy*, from the 1930s.

Yacowar concedes *The Sopranos* has "a range and intensity of profanity unprecedented in North American television" but also "a range of characterization and moral issues unprecedented in North American television."

"*The Sopranos* is so concentrated a work that you can freeze frame this show at any point and analyze the meaning of the composition," he said. And only in the video and digital age is such an ambitious work possible, he adds, since people can buy and replay the series repeatedly. More than 600,000 DVD box sets of the first season have sold so far.

In Yacowar's view, most of the male characters in *The Sopranos* are trapped in a destructive delusion of manhood that reviles the feminine, cutting them off from their essential humanity and the "natural impulses of the heart."



The television series *The Sopranos* is violent and profane on the surface, but has deeper meaning.

Tony is subject to panic attacks, which are somehow connected to the disappearance of ducks from his backyard, and seeks help from a therapist, Dr. Melfi. In one telling but fleeting shot, we see an image of trees through Dr. Melfi's window, which seems out of place since her office is located in a strip mall with no greenery nearby.

> "The first register of the series is a man discomfited by a representation of the feminine. Women he can handle, if they are subservient to him, powerless, manipulable, exploitable. But pull a woman out of that context and present her as a work of art, an abstraction of the human experience, and he can't handle it."
>
> – Dr. Maurice Yacowar

What this reveals, through a subtle detail, is that Tony needs a "recovery of nature, and emotional base, a base of values, that are different from what he's succeeded with," said Yacowar. Even Tony's college-aged daughter, on the verge of a full and satisfying life divorced from the life of the Mob, is named Meadow.

"Tony is a man de-racinated, he's lost connection with his roots. He needs those roots for sustenance, but he can't bring himself to admit it that all the power and authority and strength that have given him what he has and what he is…are the corrupt values of false manhood."

Tony's Uncle Junior also falls victim to this masculine delusion. He cares enough about the great love of his life, a woman he's been with 16 years, that he "stoops to please her," giving her oral sex. But when word gets out among his peers, he's humiliated, beats her up and leaves her.

"He can no longer maintain this completely fulfilling relationship with this prized lover, because in the masculine community of the gang, 'if you go down on a woman, you'll go down on anything,'" says Yacowar.

The character who emerges as an unexpected hero of sorts is one of Tony's henchmen, Furio, a thug hired by Tony in Italy because of his old-school mob loyalty to the code of silence and his conscience-free ability to commit violence. In season four, however, Furio has an affair with Tony's wife, Carmela, and is dramatically redeemed.

"Furio suddenly finds himself repelled by Tony's way of life. He has become the strongest male value in the show so far and has learned the value of humanity." Furio's response to this revelation is to return home to Italy.

Yacowar suggests *The Sopranos* was conceived by creator David Chase as a kind of five-act drama, with one act remaining (the fourth season has just ended). He says the series displays an artistic ambition never before seen on television, putting it in the same class as the works of Shakespeare or Dickens.

"I have more confidence in David Chase than any other artist since Woody Allen messed up," he said. "No matter how many times you watch *The Sopranos*, you find new meaning." ■

Law school ranks second in Canada

Despite student-faculty ratio, grads rate law school highly

By **Richard Cairney**

The University of Alberta Faculty of Law is the second-best law school in Canada, according to *Canadian Lawyer* magazine. The faculty finished third in the same rankings last year.

Canadian Lawyer surveys alumni from law schools across the country, asking them to grade their schools on curriculum, faculty, facilities, testing, fellow students, and practice relevance. The survey also asks whether or not the alumni would recommend the school to others.

That the U of A rated as highly as it did, despite the fact it has the third-worst staff-student ratio in the country, says something about the calibre of teachers here, says Dr. David Percy, dean of the Faculty of Law.

"It's nice that your graduates recognize that they had a good education from a dedicated teaching staff—that is important to every teacher everywhere. It makes you feel good about what you do," Percy said.

"This year's respondents said the school's strengths are the two Fs: faculty and facilities," the magazine reports. It quotes one recent graduate, who cited "diversity of faculty, a high number of texts originating from U of A profs, dedication of staff, and curriculum," as strong points.

The survey awarded two 'A' grades: one to first-place University of Victoria, and the other to the U of A. The University of Toronto, which ranked third, moving up from seventh place last year, was awarded an A-.

Jennifer Lepp, president of the U of A Law Students' Association, said the survey "affirms" what students at the school already know.

"The interesting thing about this survey is that it is graduates of these law schools making the decisions," she said. "Once you are in practice you look to your law school and say, 'How prepared was I?' Obviously our grads are speaking very highly of the U of A."

The faculty was one of three recently embroiled in a debate over the introduction of differential tuition fees, which will see students in law, the MBA program, and medicine pay higher tuition fees than other students. Citing competition from other universities for faculty and students, the three U of A faculties wanted to join most of their counterparts across the country by implementing the differential fees. The tuition proposal was passed last week. Lepp says that news bodes well for the faculty of law and its future students.

"They will target funds attract more top professors," she said. "You can only imagine what we will be like with more faculty."

Percy said the improved funding will stabilize the number of existing faculty, and eventually increase the size of the faculty to include an intellectual property law program.

While was making a presentation to a law firm in Calgary recently, Percy mentioned the planned addition to the curriculum. "All they could say was, 'Hurray for you – you've got to include intellectual property in your curriculum, it comes up all the time.' "

The survey will help in the recruitment of students as well, Percy added. "The success of our students is our success. We reclaim it." ■

opinion
guest column

After war with Iraq, then what?

By **Andy Knight**

One cannot help but sense the inevitability of a US or US-led invasion of Iraq. Impatient with UN weapons inspectors for not producing the "smoking gun" to justify a multilateral military attack on Iraq, US President George Bush himself appears unable or unwilling to produce evidence he claims exists linking Saddam Hussein to al-Qaeda and demonstrating that Iraq possesses Weapons of Mass Destruction.

But with over 150,000 US and 20,000 British troops deployed in the Persian Gulf, it will be exceedingly difficult to avoid a full-blown war, unless Saddam takes the bait being offered by some of his neighbours and slips into exile. And, as Patrick Clawson, deputy director of the Washington-based Institute for Near East Policy has observed: Saddam's ambitions "are so grand that he cannot be accommodated." His chance of simply slithering into anonymous exile is slim to none. Let's assume that, based on all the war mongering, there will be an attack on Iraq before the end of February or by early March 2003. What then?

There are at least two possible outcomes of this war, assuming the US can remove Saddam from office. The first is the optimistic scenario painted by Bush administration conservatives that 'Iraq sans Saddam' can be quickly molded into a democratic, pro-Western state and, with Marshall Plan-type financial assistance, be rebuilt into a prosperous and thriving nation – a model for the rest of the Islamic Middle East. The second is the dour prediction that Iraq, without the iron fist of its dictator, will degenerate into a 'Yugoslavia minus Tito' quagmire as Kurds, Shiites, Sunnis, Nasserites, leftists, Ba'athist and a host of tribal groups slip into a bloody civil war.

> The truth is, no one knows for sure what the outcome of this potential war will be. Even more uncertain is the impact a US-led overthrow will have on the entire region.

The truth is, no one knows for sure what the outcome of this potential war will be. Even more uncertain is the impact a US-led overthrow will have on the entire region. Both scenarios could undermine the stability of the Gulf monarchies, increasing tensions between Islamic states and the West, making Israel more vulnerable, and escalating terrorist attacks on the US, and its allies.

If the Bush conservatives are right, we can expect someone like Ahmed Chalabi — head of the exiled Iraqi National Congress and a close associate of Richard Perle (chair of the Pentagon's Defence Policy Board), US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld and Vice President Dick Cheney – to be installed by the US military to unite the country's various factions. The Bush administration is grooming exiled Iraqi opposition forces for the take over of power in Iraq. A series of 'post-Saddam Iraq' conferences have been held since October 2002 (with the Bush administration's blessing) at which such issues as drafting a new Iraqi constitution, adopting a democratic federal system of government in Iraq, the future of Iraq's oil production, the de-Ba'athification of Iraq and the dismantling of the Mukhabarat (the Ba'ath party intelligence body) were discussed. Recently, more than a dozen exiled Iraqi opposition leaders met in Iran to prepare their entry into northern Iraq – a sign that Iran is also involved in planning Iraq's post-Saddam future. It should be pointed out that there are serious divisions, ambivalence and mistrust amongst some of the exiled opposition groups and that Iran's plans for Iraq are not necessarily in synch with America's.

The Bush National Security team already has plans for administering and democratizing Iraq after ousting Saddam. These plans include: a military presence for at least 18 months after the take-over; a series of military trials of the most senior current Iraqi leaders, including President Hussein; the installation of a transitional civilian administration similar to the one in Afghanistan; eventual elections of parliament; implementing a post-conflict rebuilding and reconstruction strategy; and, gaining immediate control over the lucrative Iraqi oil fields.

A democratic Iraq can, however, cause negative effects. Such a regime could threaten the region's monarch-governing states and lead to a 'domino effect' with one monarchy after another being toppled by anti-Western, anti-American, and anti-democratic Islamist forces. These monarchies are not transparent in their governance, nor accountable to their people. There is a serious disconnect between the leadership and the civil society in countries like Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states. It is highly likely that the populations of these countries will use the Iraqi model of democracy as a reason to engage in anti-regime agitation for their own form of democratic government. The problem for the US, however, is that the now pro-US monarchies could find themselves being replaced by anti-US, Iranian-style Islamic democratic regimes who will lend greater support to the Palestinian cause and become a threat to Israel as well as the US and its allies.

The pessimistic scenario is even more frightening. A 'post-Saddam' civil war among the various Iraqi factions is not inconceivable. Once the lid in internal dissent is lifted, it is possible that pent up emotions will boil over into a blood bath of internecine violence. This will not only make it difficult for a US presence in that country to maintain law and order, but it is also likely to spill over into surrounding countries and destabilize the entire region.

Both scenarios should cause US policy makers to pause and reflect on this decision to go to war with Iraq. The US is not prepared to deal with another 9-11. It is still engaged in a global war against terrorism.

In addition, it has to contend with the increased belligerence of North Korea. If it is not careful, the US might follow the path of other hegemonic power; the path of over-ambition and overstretch. According to Paul Kennedy, in his book the *Rise and Fall of Great Powers*, this is a sure recipe for the downfall of a hegemon. ■

folio letters to the editor

Farmed salmon is safe salmon

Editor, *Folio*:

Regarding the article in the Jan. 24 edition of *Folio: Good fish, bad fish?* First an observation on your journalism. I note that Dr. John Volpe had the first and last paragraphs to forward his thesis. As a journalist you must recognize the inherent bias this presents as the first and last paragraphs are the most powerful pieces of any article.

I would agree with one aspect of Dr. Volpe's comments "I (Dr. Volpe) say let the weight of the evidence speak for itself." Consider these facts:

1) Antibiotic use in salmon farming is the lowest of any farmed animal species. Indeed for at least a decade, many crops of farmed salmon have been grown throughout their complete production cycle without ever being given antibiotics.

2) The levels of contaminants such as PCBs and dioxins are so low in farmed salmon that it would be virtually impossible to eat enough farmed salmon to reach toxic levels in one's diet. This is in contrast to wild salmon where the levels of mercury are high enough that if you only ate salmon, and huge quantities at that, you might be able to reach toxic levels. The fact is that both farmed and wild salmon are very healthy foods because of their high levels of Omega 3 and Omega 6 fatty acids relatively very low levels of toxic contaminants.

3) The red colour in farmed salmon and wild salmon are the same pigment (astaxanthin) and the levels of this pigment are significantly higher in the most high prized species of wild salmon such as the sockeye. These pigments are also a good dietary source of antioxidants.

4) The waste output of farmed salmon relative to the amount of edible product produced is much lower than other farmed species, cattle, pigs and chickens. The output from farmed salmon per amount of edible product produced is no greater than from wild salmon.

5) Atlantic salmon are not an invasive species. Despite more than a century of trying and many millions of salmon being planted in watersheds outside of the home range of the Atlantic salmon (the North Atlantic) there are no established anandroumous runs of Atlantic salmon beyond the North Atlantic.

6) Pacific salmon populations are not collapsing. The beloved Adams River Sockeye was a century high run this fall. Perhaps salmon farming should be given credit for this event if University of Alberta scientists are going to rely solely on correlation without the need to establish a causal relationship between events to come up with scientific conclusions.

7) The moratorium on salmon farming in B.C. was lifted to give rural coastal communities a chance to participate in the global salmon market. Farmed salmon now accounts for about 87 per cent of the value of the global salmon market. Currently B.C. has less than seven per cent of this market when local farmed and wild salmon are combined. B.C. has the potential to access about 40 per cent of this market and develop a multi-billion dollar coastal fish-farming industry by farming salmon and other species.

8) As much as "Hicks has a financial interest in the industry - why should he be believed?," Dr. Volpe relies on his thesis, that salmon farming is a threat to wild salmon, so that he can build a career and get funding support for his research. - www.biology.ualberta.ca/faculty/john_volpe - Why should Dr. Volpe be believed?

Thank you for consideration of the facts.

Dr. Brad Hicks
Langley, B.C.

(Editor's note: Dr. Hicks is a board member of the B.C. Salmon Farmers' Associaton)

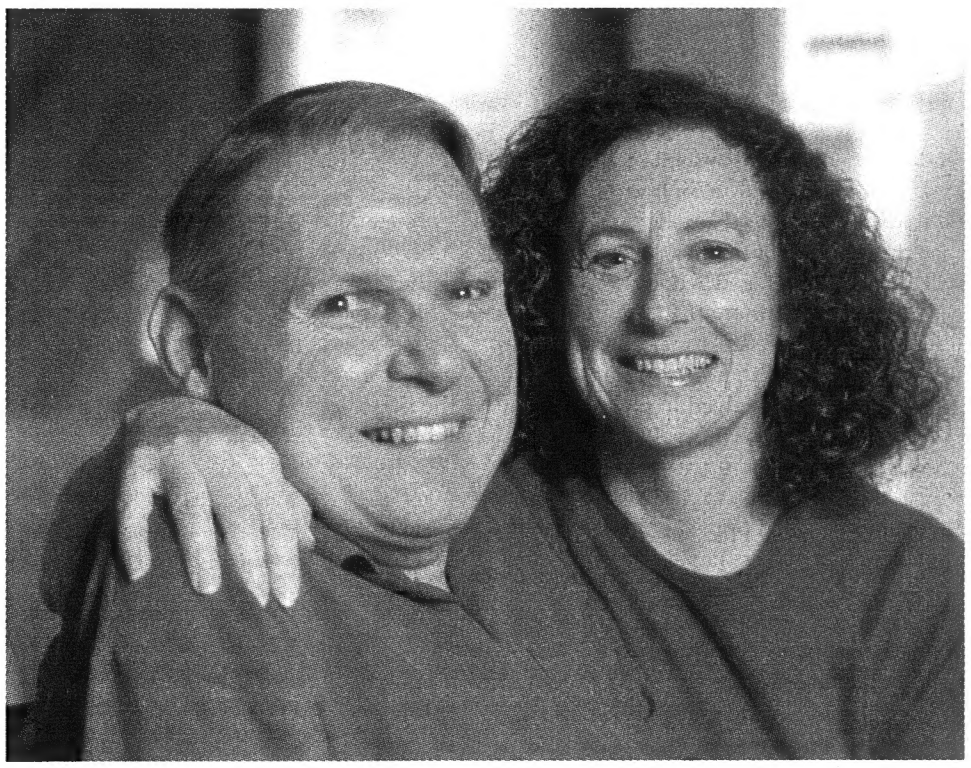
folio letters to the editor

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Award winning professor touched the lives of students

Jim Vargo was a consummate communicator

By Al Cook



Dr. Jim Vargo and his wife, Fran. Dr. Vargo Passed away Jan. 28.

Over the course of his career Dr. Jim Vargo taught thousands of rehabilitation medicine students during his 23-year career at the University of Alberta as a professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy. Dr Vargo's former students universally expressed their respect and admiration for him and the impact he had on their lives.

This respect was a direct result of the great respect that he had for his students. He said: "What we are speaks to students much more that what we say. I believe that everyone, including students, wants respect just as much as you and I do, and I try to instill in students that learning does not come just from experience; learning comes from what we do as a result of our experience."

He was a frequent invited keynote speaker at national professional conferences. His presentations were eagerly anticipated, not only because he chose provocative titles such as: *1-900 Numbers Cause Ear Infections and Other Myths I Have Learned* for a sexual health conference, but also because he was an outstanding communicator who touched his audiences in profound ways.

Dr. Vargo's skill in communication was evident, not only in speaking to groups or teaching, but also one-on-one. Dr. Vargo often helped students and staff in the Faculty deal with difficult personal or professional issues or situations.

The key to his effectiveness was that he knew that the true skill in communication is not talking, but listening. He was a great listener.

He also had a remarkable sensitivity to the needs of others. He always seemed to sense when people were concerned, and he often responded to those concerns without being asked.

Dr. Vargo rarely took himself seriously, and he often made light of his disability, a spinal cord injury sustained at age 12. This served to make others more comfortable and to place the focus on the interaction, not the disability. His regular column in the national magazine of the Canadian Paraplegic Association provided insight, perspective and humour for thousands of readers. He believed that teaching is 40 per cent content and 60 per cent theatre.

> On the first day of class he would wheel into his class and announce his one major regret in his life – he'd never play pro football. He paused, as the class focused on his wheelchair, and then added, "I'm just too old."

He often used humour to establish rapport with his students and to make them more comfortable with disability issues. On the first day of class he would wheel into his class and announce his one major regret in his life – he'd never play pro football.

He paused, as the class focused on his wheelchair, and then added, "I'm just too old."

This always brought laughter and established a relationship with the students. His wheelchair soon disappeared into the background.

Dr. Vargo received the CASE Canadian Professor of the Year award in 1994, the first such award for the U of A.

Dr. Vargo retired from the U of A in 1998. He also served as Associate Dean and Acting Dean in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine.

He died on January 28 at his home in Edmonton. His wife, Fran and his mother Ruth Barker of Calgary survive him. The family has asked that contributions be directed to the Jim Vargo Graduate Scholarship fund at the U of A. ■

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
UNITED WAY 2002 CAMPAIGN FINAL REPORT

Many thanks

To our United Way Committee members, all our staff, students, retirees and on-campus businesses as well as to all the prize donors and sponsors.

The **2002 United Way Campaign** was the most successful in the history of the University's Association with the United Way of the Alberta Capital Region.

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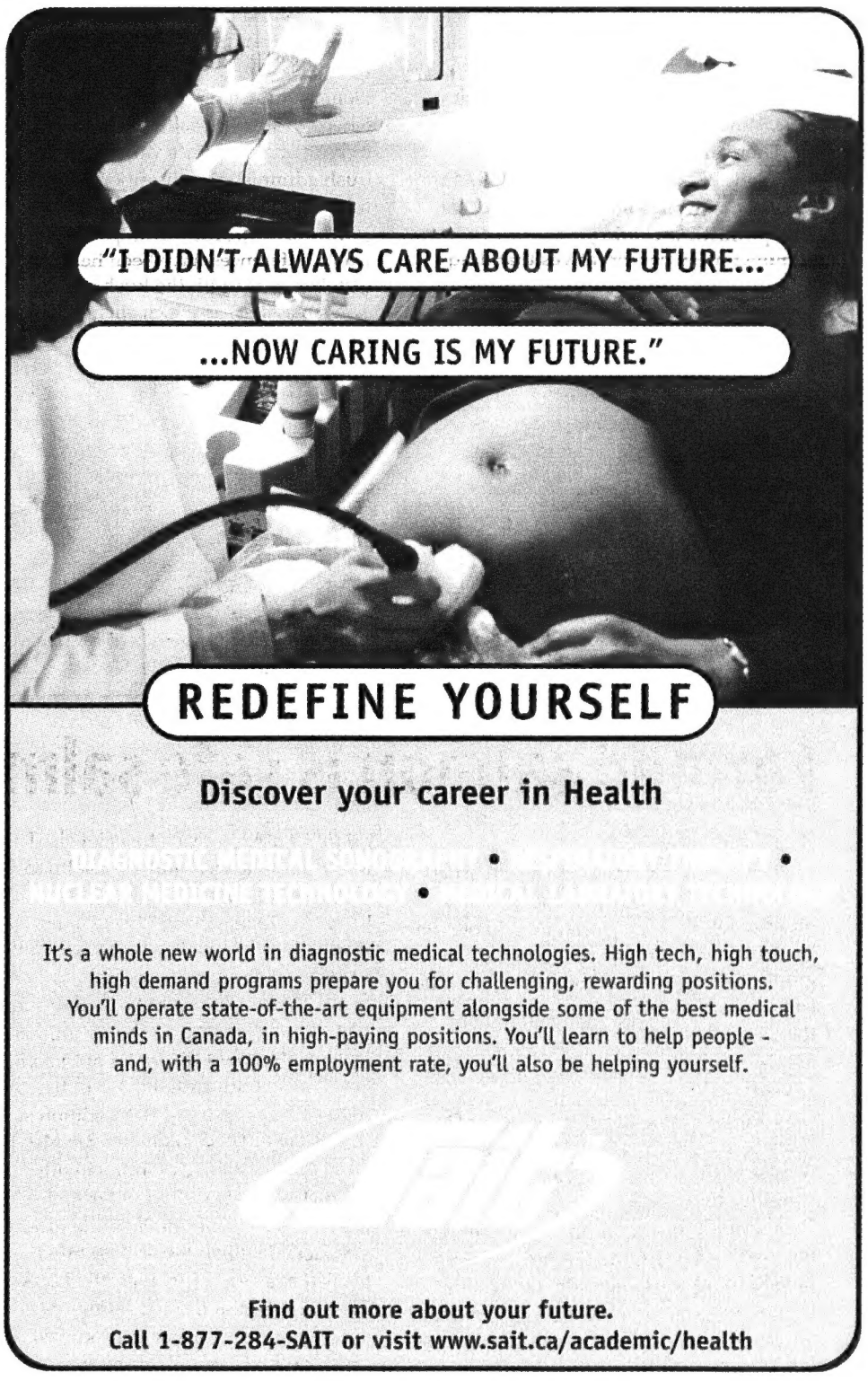
GOAL: 1,200 — DONORS — TOTAL: 1,140

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Congratulations to **Nick Pashulka, Housing and Food Services** our Early Bird winner of the weekend stay at the Kananaskis Mountain Lodge and **Sharon Warren, Rehabilitation Medicine,** the Final Prize winner of the 2 WestJet tickets to Victoria and 2 night's stay at the Coast Harbourside Hotel and Marina.

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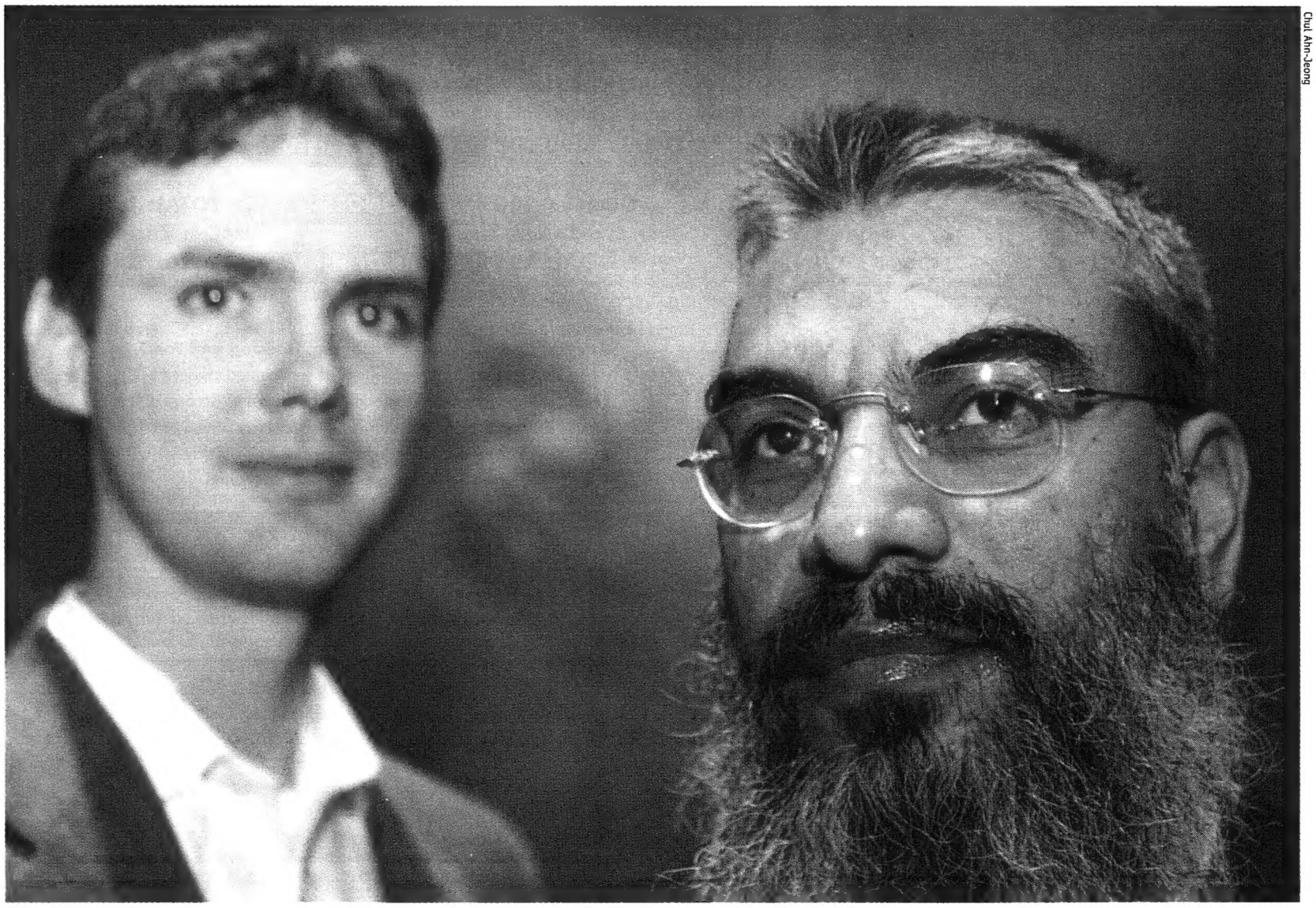
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Looking for the theory of everything

Can science and spirituality work hand in hand?

By **Richard Cairney**



Chul Ahn-Jeong

Dr. Muzaffar Iqbal and U of A student Jason Blackstock have big questions about life, the universe and everything.

> "There are no units of morality. You can't say an event was 10 milli-Hitlers bad. But you have to face up to the fact that morality is just as real as the laws of physics."
>
> – Dr. George Ellis

Dr. Muzaffar Iqbal appreciates the incredible technology that allows a Muslim living in Canada to make a pilgrimage to Mecca, half-way around the world, in a matter of hours. But at the same time, he feels uncomfortable with the science enabling that same pilgrim to take a phone call in the middle of a highly personal, holy event.

> "Gene sequences in another universe could spell 'Made By God' in many different languages"
>
> – Dr. Don Page

Science and spirituality are the two strongest influences in the world today, he observes, and they don't always mix well.

"If you wake up to a clock radio, and you're answering e-mails and cell phones all day, it has an interesting impact on the Islamic tradition of coming into contact with the creator five times a day," said Iqbal. "I've seen people inside of the Great Mosque of Mecca with their cell phones on. At what is supposed to be a great, profound moment, I've seen them doing business: 'Yes, I'm almost done here – 20 more minutes.' They're setting up conference calls with their secretaries in Canada."

Different cultures, he notes, experience the scientific achievements of the developed world in different ways. Some have it thrust upon them in the form of bombs dropped from the belly of an airplane. Others are embittered by the tantalizing promise of drought or pest-resistant crops or new drugs which are delivered only to those who can afford them. Science is our technical saviour but, often, our spiritual tormentor.

So Iqbal, who is president of the Centre for Science and Islam, along with 24-year-old University of Alberta physics PhD student Jason Blackstock, have established the Centre for Science and Spirituality. The organization will probe the ways science and spirituality conflict with each other and the ways they work together.

"We are not trying to replace existing academic structures," said Blackstock. "We are trying to make the dialogue more accessible."

The centre hosted its first public forum Feb. 2, addressing the wonders of creation.

The keynote address was delivered by renowned cosmologist Dr. George Ellis of the University of Cape Town, South Africa. Co-author of *The Large Scale Structure of Space Time* with Stephen Hawking, Ellis provided a review of cosmological discovery reciting fact after fact before heading into the spiritual aspect of his research.

"One technical issue we don't look at is why life exists," he said. Science, he observed, cannot provide all the answers. It cannot, for example, adequately deal with morality.

"There are no units of morality," he said. "You can't say an event was 10 milli-Hitlers bad. But you have to face up to the fact that morality is just as real as the laws of physics."

Ellis understands those laws well. He has determined that with just the slightest change in the rules governing physics, life as we know it – indeed the universe – would not exist.

"These laws appear to be fine-tuned to allow life," he told the audience. "Physical cosmology will do a lot for us, but it won't tell us about the nature of morality . . . our lives are data about the nature of the universe."

Rabbi Lindsey bat Joseph, with Edmonton's Beth Ora Reform Synagogue, suggested morality and spirituality help regulate our appetite for scientific knowledge.

"Spirituality can provide a safety stop," she said. "Today, we are delving into areas that people find frightening . . . science fiction is actually becoming science fact." Our spirituality, she said, prevents us from "inadvertently destroying ourselves or destroying what makes us inherently human."

And she urged the audience not to take too literal a reading on religious texts. "The Bible is a book of truths, but truths and facts are not the same," she said.

That sentiment was echoed by Dr. Don Page, a U of A physicist whose thesis on black holes was supervised by Kip Thorne and Stephen Hawking. And yet Page has some rigid religious beliefs.

Page, an evangelical Christian, does not believe that free will exists. He does believe that everything we do is predestined. But as a scientist researching quantum cosmology he also believes in the possibility that there are many different, parallel universes that exist along with the one we occupy. Following the multiple universe theory, every possible turn of events actually takes place. For example, the chemical composition of DNA is represented by the letters A, C, G I and T. But that might not be the case in another universe.

> "The Bible is a book of truths, but truths and facts are not the same."
>
> – Rabbi Lindsey bat Joseph

"Gene sequences in another universe could spell 'Made By God' in many different languages," said Page.

In our own experience, such a revelation has not been made, and faith, or assumptions, help to fill the gaps in our knowledge. So the difference in the roles of science and religion "is not so clear cut," Page said.

"We feel better when we understand than we do when we are confused. Understanding the world helps us to feel better," he said. "Religion seeks an understanding of the totality of the universe; science also seeks an understanding of the universe." Science asks 'why' and 'how' questions, but some truths will never be known – some assumptions are always needed.

"We can't find anything interesting by assuming nothing," he said.

On the matter of morality, he is in agreement with Ellis. Science can tell us many things, but it cannot tell us what we should do, he said. "Science can tell us how to meet our goals, and if your goal is to live a long and healthy life, medicine tells us: 'don't smoke.' But science cannot tell us if it is better to live a long and healthy life or to die in agony, prematurely, of lung cancer."

For his part, Blackstock is curious about science and spirituality because of a sense of awe his research into quantum physics fills him with.

There is a rift between science and spirituality, and he admits to being challenged in trying to reconcile the two. "I see it (science) as also being a very spiritual exploration. I'm struck with the unity of all matter, the connection between all things," he said. "When you realize you are stardust – that you are made of that same bit of material and energy that was part of the Big Bang – what strikes you is the interconnectedness of it all."

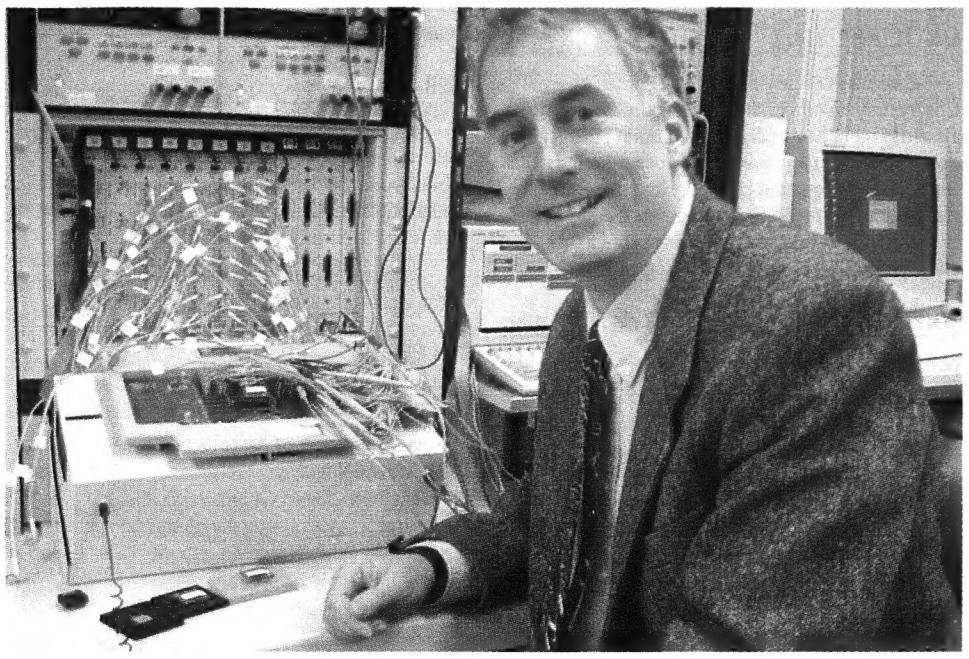
Blackstock said he and Iqbal, who met at a conference of multiculturalism last year, only want to serve as facilitators to a conversation about science and spirituality. They intend to stage more such events to broaden the discussion and to invite more perspectives.

"People want to talk about this," he said. "We want to provide a forum where these issues can be openly discussed." ■

Prof boosts computing power

New technology gets more work from one source

By **Stephen Osadetz**



Dr. Duncan Elliott is developing faster, better computer processing on a cheaper, more efficient chip.

Ten years ago, computers were so slow that pictures took minutes to download, and downloading movies was virtually unthinkable. Today, computers are so powerful and fast you can practically run your life from them, and one University of Alberta computer architect is working to push them to run even faster.

Dr. Duncan Elliott, a professor in the U of A Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, focuses on a cutting-edge technology called computational random access memory, or C-RAM for short. Elliott pioneered this new approach to computer processing when he was a doctoral student at the University of Toronto. The technology allows both processing and memory to be run on the same chip. Instead of transferring memory between data and processor, all the work is done on one chip.

On conventional processors, "only the top 10 micrometres of the chip have active circuits, but those thin layers can be stacked up, and that's what we're doing with processors and their associated memories," Elliott said. In effect, C-RAM depends on physically "cramming" more processing power into a smaller space.

But C-RAM isn't suited for small, conventional operations, because it requires a large amount of data to keep a large number of processors busy. "The applications could be in multimedia, databases, or scientific calculation, but you wouldn't use it to do word processing or to calculate your income tax faster," Elliott said.

The technology, though, is still in its research phase – it has yet to be adopted in the computers. However, some companies, IBM included, have taken an interest in C-RAM, and are working to make it a reality.

Elliott is also working to find applications for C-RAM. A start-up company called Atsana uses Elliott's C-RAM patents to improve image and video compression. "In order to have a video conference through your cell phone, you'd have to compress the images taken by your video camera so that it can be transmitted over a given bandwidth. C-RAM could be used to do this," Elliott said.

Elliott has been immersed in the world of computers since his childhood. When he was in grade 9, Elliott soldered together his first computer from spare parts. With only a 10-key keypad and a simple alphanumeric display, his first computer wasn't anything like those he works with now, but it was a good head start on his career.

The essence of Elliott's work is that he's trying to get faster, better processing on a cheaper, more efficient chip. As he says, "In the world of computers, we're always trying to get more for less." ■

Jumping into the cultural mix

There is no static culture, researcher says

By **Jane Hurly**

If you should spot Dr. Gamal Abdel-Shehid having lunch in a restaurant it's likely he's doing more than just savouring the food. It's likely the University of Alberta professor in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation is also doing research, observing those around him, their interactions with others, how they're dressed, their language, and how the dishes have been prepared.

Abdel-Shehid studies pop culture. Food, fashion, film, and sport – the things that are important to the average individual. "The question to me is, 'What is culture? How does culture make us, and how do we make culture? How can we change culture if need be?'"

"I don't believe in a static notion of culture, such as a Ukrainian culture or a Jewish culture, I think that culture is much more fluid and changes all the time," he said.

Abdel-Shehid believes, for example, there is no such thing as a typical Canadian dish. "It's going to a friend's place and having one friend bring Thai food, one samosas, and another pelau rice."

It's that fluidity, that melding, that overlapping and blending of cultures, a concept called creolization, that Abdel-Shehid believes is more enriching and sustainable than multiculturalism. Where multiculturalism encourages enclaves, such as a Little Italy or a Chinatown, creolization "takes us out of our so-called national culture and asks us to create something new," he said.

A native of Alexandria, Egypt, Abdel-Shehid immigrated to Canada, to Brampton, Ontario, a Toronto suburb, as a young child. Culturally, he says, it was jarring coming from a city of two million to one of 40,000, but he quickly adapted to Canadian life.

Abdel-Shehid also distinguished himself as an academic, eventually completing his PhD at York University on sport and black masculinity in Canada, before accepting a position in cultural studies at the U of A.

Canada may be regarded as an excellent place to live, but we still have a way to go, Abdel-Shehid said. "Our failure as a country is our inability to come to terms with the question of First Nations people and their legitimate right for justice, and (our inability) to understand that nobody is culturally superior to anybody else."

Abdel-Shehid, who has applied for a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to study the creolization of popular culture in Canada, plans to write a book after his current project has been completed. ■

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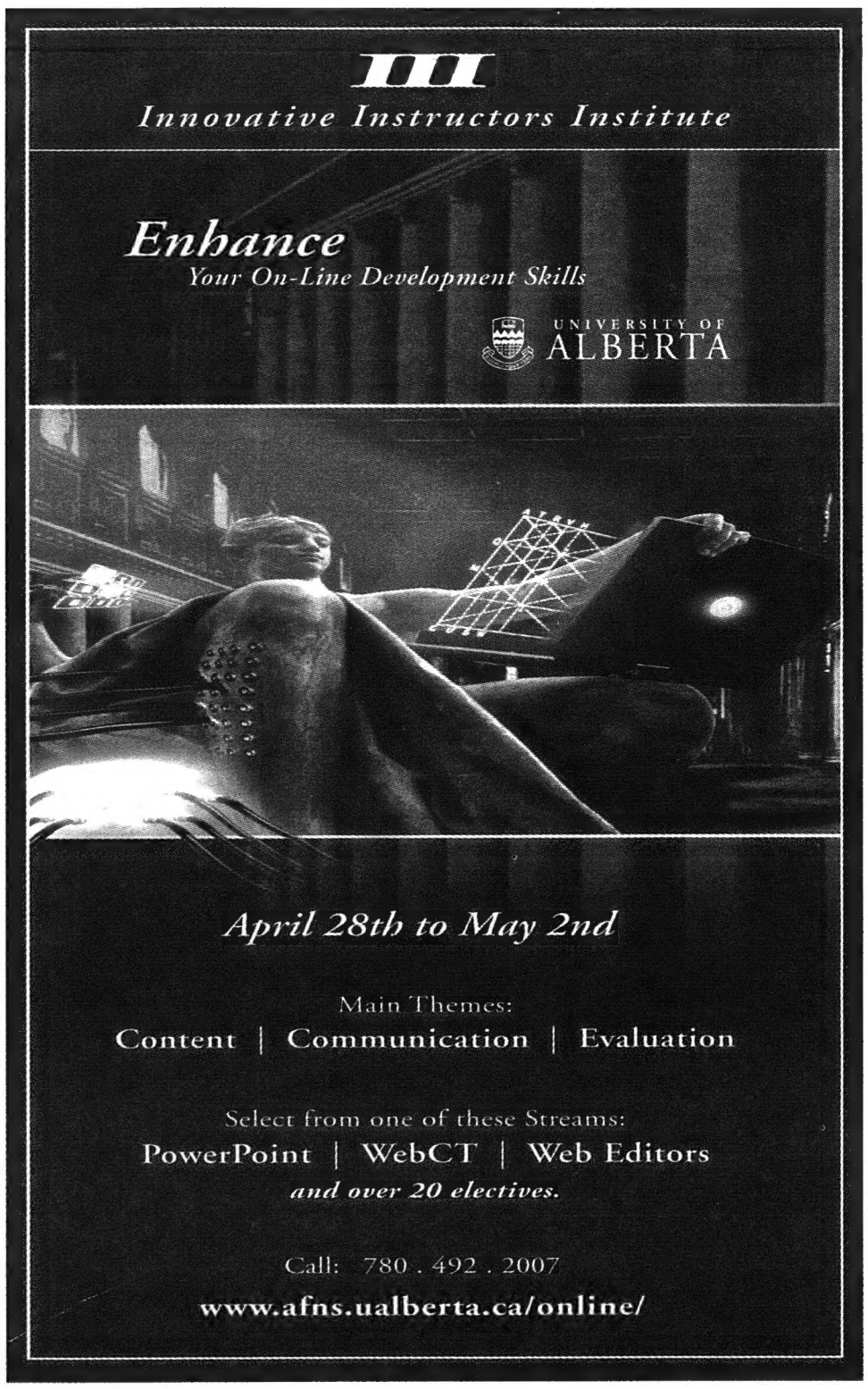
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talks & events

Submit talks and events to Cora Doucette by 9 a.m. one week prior to publication. **Folio Talks and Events listings will no longer accept submissions via fax, mail, e-mail or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in Folio and on ExpressNews at: http://www.expressnews.ualberta.ca/ualberta/L2.cfm?c=10**

UNTIL APR 2003

Campus Observatory The Campus Observatory is open to the general public every Thursday night beginning at 8 p.m. during the academic year, with the exception of holiday periods. The Observatory is operated by faculty and student volunteers belonging to SPACE (Students for the Promotion of Astronomy, Culture and Education). For further information, please contact Dr. S. Morsink at 492-3987.

UNTIL MAR 07 2003

Microform Collections in the Rutherford Library Microformats like microfilm and microfiche allow researchers to bring the archives of the world to their own libraries. Rutherford Library has rich holdings in microformat, including Early English Books, 1475-1640; 1641-1700 and the History of Science and Technology series. This exhibition will feature the most recent major addition to the microform holdings, the Thomason Tracts, 1640-1661. In conjunction with the exhibition, a mini-conference entitled, "Cheap Print and Revolution: The Thomason Tracts, 1640-1661" will be held in the Rutherford Library on Wednesday 12 February. Location: Foyer, Rutherford Library South. For more information contact: Professor Sylvia Brown, Department of English, sylvia.brown@ualberta.ca

UNTIL FEB 13 2003

Helping the "Scrap Bags" Mend Hearts Join us in collecting fabric and batting for the "Scrap Bags", four generous ladies who, through the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and using only their own materials and resources, make quilts for children with life-threatening illnesses. Each fabric donation you bring in will get you an entry form to win great prizes. Fabric must be 100% cotton and no smaller than 3" x 3". Call 492-5609 for details. Location: Room #209, HUB Mall Administration Office.

FEB 07 2003

Professional Development Day The School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta is hosting its annual Professional Development Day starting at 9:30. This year's speaker will be Cate McNeely, Deputy Chief Librarian of the Richmond Public Library. She will be joined by Punch Jackson from Alberta Community Development and Linda Goyette, writer-editor of Edmonton: A City Called Home, and current and former student speakers. Free admission. Please consult our Web page for the detailed schedule of events. Location: Banquet Room of Lister Hall. www.ualberta.ca/~lissa1/pdday.htm .

Department of Biological Sciences Department of Biological Sciences Molecular Biology and Genetics Research Group and Genetics 605 Seminar Series. Tara Beattie, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Calgary presents "Functional Interactions within the Human Telomerase Complex," at 3:00 p.m. in Room M-149 of the Biological Sciences Building. Web site: http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/genet605/

University Teaching Services Deborah Eerkes, Student Ombudservice, facilitates "Academic Integrity: A Classroom Approach". This session examines all aspects of Academic Integrity with a focus on how to deal with academic dishonesty in the classroom, and how to promote academic integrity. A discipline case will be traced from suspicion of inappropriate behaviour through laying a charge to present an entire disciplinary process. An update on "Truth*In*Education: T*I*E Integrity into Learning", the U of A's academic integrity educational program, will be given. 12:00-1:30 p.m. CAB 219. Web site: www.ualberta.ca/~uts

FEB 08 2003

Career and Placement Services (CaPS) Pharmacy Career Fair. Network with employers over lunch from Noon - 4 p.m. & take part in breakout sessions. Admission is Free. Location: Dinwoodie Lounge (2-000 SUB). Web site: www.ualberta.ca/caps

Career and Placement Services (CaPS) Summer Job Fair. Find that summer job early this year from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. in the Butterdome! Admission is free. Web site: www.ualberta.ca/caps

FEB 09 2003

Department of Music Saxophone Masterclass with Visiting Artist Jean-Marie Londeix. Studio 27, Fine Arts Building 2-7. Free admission. 4:00 p.m.

FEB 10 - 13 2003

Dept. of English Distinguished Visitor, Rosemary Hennessy (SUNY). Monday, Feb. 10 - Seminar: "Organizing on the Mexican Frontera: What's Love Got To Do With It?" - 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12 - Town and Gown - "Solidarity with Mexican Workers: Coalition Politics and Class Struggle" - 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13- Seminar-"Sexual Identity on the Border"-3:30 p.m. Location: Feb.10-HC L-3; Feb.12-Founders' Room at Winspear Centre; Feb.13-HC L-3.

FEB 10 2003

Department of Music Music at Convocation Hall. William H Street, saxophone, Roger Admiral, piano. Works by Denisov, Fisher, Bashaw, Lauba, Bauzin, Gallois-Montbrun and Heider. Admission: $12/adult, $7/student/senior. 8:00 p.m.

Department of Music Lecture with visiting artist Jean-Marie Londeix, Saxophone. Professor Emeritus Bordeaux (France) Conservatory. Translated by William H Street. The saxophone in its many guises - or a brief history of the saxophone. Studio 27, Fine Arts Building 2-7. Free admission. 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

Department of Biological Sciences Department of Biological Sciences Botany 600 Seminar Series. David Gifford, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta presents a seminar on "Loblolly pine, a seedy story", at 12 noon in Room M-149 of the Biological Sciences Building. Web site: http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/bot600/

Department of Cell Biology Recruit Candidate Dr. Wu-Min Deng, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Biochemistry, University of Washington, "Drosophila Dystroglycan and cell polarity." 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. 5-10 Medical Sciences Building. Web site: www.ualberta.ca/cellbiology

Department of Philosophy Professor Jan Narveson, Department of Philosophy, University of Waterloo, will speak on "Moral Foundationalism and the Social Contract." Location: Humanities Centre 4-29, Time: 4:00 p.m.

FEB 10 - 11 2003

Career and Placement Services (CaPS) Brown Bag Lunch Seminars - They're Free! The week of February 10th: Enhancing Your Employability through Volunteering & Looking for Work Abroad. Location: CaPS, 2-100 SUB. Web site: www.ualberta.ca/caps

FEB 11 2003

Panel Discussion and Book Launch Panel Discussion and Book Launch: NAFTA in the New Millennium. Join our panelists as they discuss issues from NAFTA in the New Millennium: Edward J. Chambers (editor), Peter H. Smith (editor) and José Luis Valdés-Ugalde (contributor). They will talk about how NAFTA has performed, political support for the treaty, and prospects for the future. Several other contributors to the volume will also be in attendance. 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served RSVP to Kerri at 492-7493. Location: 4th Floor Lounge, Business Building. Web site: www.uap.ualberta.ca

FEB 12 2003

Department of Educational Policy Studies Dr. Carlos Torres of the Freire Institute at UCLA presents "Globalization and Expertise: A Critique of the World Bank and Multilateral Organizations Policies in Education." From 5-6:30 p.m. Education North Tower 7-152.

Department of Music Lecture Adorno, Schoenberg, and Jazz: The Case for the Defence with guest P Murray Dineen, University of Ottawa. 2-34 Fine Arts Building. Free admission. 12 noon.

Department of Medical Genetics Medical Genetics Rounds. Dr. Peter Beerli, Department of Genomics, University of Washington, will be presenting his talk "Inference of population genetic parameters using the coalescent." 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Location: 2-07 HMRC

Department of Public Health Sciences PHS Colloquium & Grand Rounds. Dr Allyson Jones, Postdoctoral Fellow, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, will speak on "Hip Fractures." 12 - 12:50 p.m. Location: 2-117, Clinical Sciences Building. Web site: www.phs.ualberta.ca

Qualitative Research Methodology Series Dr. Nancy Gibson, Professor and Chair, Department of Human Ecology presents: Aboriginal Community Health Research and the ACADRE Network. 12 Noon to 1:00 p.m. Location: 6-10 University Extension Centre. Web site: http://www.ualberta.ca/~iiqm/

FEB 12 - 13 2003

Career and Placement Services (CaPS) Workshops: So You Want to Be an Academic. Two dates: Feb. 12/03 - Targeted to Science students. Feb. 13/03 - Targeted to Arts students. Pre-register at CaPS, 2-100 SUB. Location: CaPS classroom; 4-02 SUB. Web site: www.ualberta.ca/caps

FEB 13 2003

Department of Educational Policy Studies Dr. Carlos Torres of the Freie Institute at UCLA will present "Freire, Habermas and the Pedagogical Subject." From 10:30 a.m.-12 noon in Education North Tower 7-152. Dr. Ray Morrow from the Department of

Sociology U of A will be co-presenter.

Department of Philosophy Professor Raffaella DeRosa, Department of Philosophy, University of South Carolina, will speak on "Descartes on Sensory Misrepresentation: the Case of Materially False Ideas." Location: Humanities Centre Lecture Theatre 4. Time: 4:30 p.m.

Department of Political Science Stella Gaon, University of Alberta, presents "Judging Justice: The Strange Responsibility of Deconstruction." 3:30 p.m. Location: Tory 10-4.

Discussions for Learning in Large Enrolment Large Enrolment Initiative: Managing discussions using the discussion tool in WebCT to provide a quality learning experience for undergraduate students can be a challenging and time consuming task. Dr. John Hoddinott uses the discussion tool in Biology 107, a large enrolment undergraduate course, to promote student understanding of scientific principles, collaboration and foster a spirit of inquiry. John will discuss his approach and its result. Time: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Location: Telus 214/216. Web site: http://www.atl.ualberta.ca/

Health Promotion & WorkLife Services Dying of Embarrassment: Social anxiety can be more than just shyness. Do you worry about blushing, shaking, or losing control in front of others? Do you have trouble with public speaking, parties, meetings, eating or drinking in public, working or writing while being observed, or making telephone calls? Do you worry that what you say sounds stupid or boring to others? Do you avoid social situations because of some of these concerns? If you, or someone you know, worries too much about what other people think, are too self-conscious, or have difficulty with public speaking and other types of social situation then please join us for this Lunch & Learn to find ways that psychologists can help. Seating is limited! To register or for more information contact: Sarah Gaudon @ 0659 or e-mail sarah.gaudon@hrs.ualberta.ca Location: Heritage Lounge, Athabasca Hall. 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Web site: http://www.hrs.ualberta.ca/efap/news

Book Launch You are invited to a celebration of interdisciplinary scholarship in the Faculty of Arts, where we will launch two major essay collections: Music and Marx: Ideas, Practice, Politics (Routledge, 2002) Edited by Regula Burckhardt Qureshi, and Music, Popular Culture, Identities (Rodopi, 2002) Edited by Richard Young 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Location: 232 Arts Building.

The 2003 Summer Career Placement Program The 2003 Summer Career Placement Program (SCP) is Underway. Summer Career Placement is one of Human Resources Development Canada's (HRDC) student summer employment initiatives. The SCP program is designed to assist students in preparing for their future entry in the labour market by providing employers with assistance in offsetting some of the wage costs associated with hiring secondary and post secondary students for summer employment. In consideration of short program deadlines all requests will now be directed through HRDC where their representatives will assist you with application procedures. An information session will be offered to further clarify program terms and conditions. Location: Engineering Teaching Learning Complex (ETLC), Room: ETLC 1-008 Time: 9 - 10:30 a.m. Due to the popularity of this program we ask for an RSVP by February 11, 2003 to maryam.bagheritari@hrs.ualberta.ca

Lecture by Margriet Haagsma Lecture by Margriet Haagsma (Classics): "The Foreign Schools in Greece". Before joining the University's Classics Department Dr Haagsma was director of the Netherlands school in Athens. Refreshments available. Location: Tory Breezeway TBW2. 7.30 p.m.

Watersheds, Wetlands and Oceans Ms. Arlene Kwasniak, Barrister and Solicitor, "Wetlands: How Laws and Policies Protect Them and Fail to Protect Them." Location: 1 013 Engineering Tecahing Learning Centre. 4:30 p.m. Web site: www.ualberta.ca/ERSC/es.htm

FEB 14 2003

2003 NEB Cell Biology Distinguished Speaker Lecture Series The Cell Biology Students Association presents: 2003 NEB Cell Biology Distinguished Speaker Lecture Series, Dr. Peter Walter, Professor and Chair of Biochemistry & Biophysics, University of California, San Francisco presents "How the ER talks to the Nucleus", Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex (ETLC) E1 001. 4 p.m., Refreshments to follow in SUB Alumni Room. Web site: www.ualberta.ca/cellbiology

Department of Music The University of Alberta Academy Strings Valentine's Ball. Tanya Prochazka, Conductor. University of Alberta Faculty Club. For tickets and event information, call 479-5801 or 424-2846. 6:00 p.m.

Department of Biological Sciences Jackie Vogel, Department of Biology, McGill University, speaks on "Regulating microtubule organization in yeast: a tale with two ends," at 3:30 p.m. in Room M-149 of the Biological Sciences Building. Host: Shelagh Campbell. Web site: http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/genet605/index.php?Page=399

FEB 18 2003

AFNS Seminar Series Charting the Future of Agriculture "In a Storm of Change" Canada's Bio-Based Economy presented by: John Oliver, President, Maple Leaf Bio-Concepts. Time: 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Venue: Telus Centre, Auditorium, Main Floor, 87 Ave & 111 Street. Refreshments and Cash Bar 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. For more information contact: Sharon Katzeff, (780) 492-0379 or e-mail: sharon.katzeff@ualberta.ca

Department of Cell Biology Recruit Candidate Shairaz Baksh, PhD, Instructor of Medicine, Cancer Biology Program, Harvard Institutes of Medicine. Title of Talk: "Control of Apoptosis by the tumor suppressor protein, RASSF1A." 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. 5-10 Medical Sciences Building. Web site: www.ualberta.ca/cellbiology

PHS Colloquium & Grand Rounds From 12 Noon-12:50 p.m. Visiting Speaker: Dr Mark Tremblay, Dean and Professor, Department of Kinesiology, University of Saskatchewan: "Childhood Obesity - The New Epidemic." Location: 2-117, Clinical Sciences Building.

positions

The records arising from this competition will be managed in accordance with provisions of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP). The University of Alberta hires on the basis of merit. We are committed to the principle of equity of employment. We welcome diversity and encourage applications from all qualified women and men, including persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities, and Aboriginal persons. With regard to teaching positions: All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. For complete U of A job listings visit www.hrs.ualberta.ca

SENIOR ADVISOR, EMPLOYMENT EQUITY

The University of Alberta's Office of Human Rights is seeking an individual who has a strong knowledge base in employment equity principles, policy, and practice, particularly as these relate to the Federal Contractors Program. This person understands representational equity and is comfortable with the use of databases and the interpretation of statistics. We are seeking a person who is also very familiar with human rights legislation and jurisprudence, as well as with human resources policy and practice. He or she is eager to work with the University community to support the achievement of the University's equity goals. This individual is attuned to the subtleties inherent in interpersonal and organizational contexts and, with influence, tact, and discretion, demonstrates the ability to use both formal and informal mechanisms to accomplish project goals. The individual will encounter controversial situations that require the capacity to think through complex interpersonal and organizational issues and to suggest creative methods of moving forward. The individual must be comfortable challenging conventional concepts. The person we are looking for is a skilled listener able to accurately extract meaning from both words and context and has a knack for clear written and oral expression. She or he checks assumptions, is empathetic, and can work well with people from all levels of the University community as well as with people who represent diverse perspectives. The individual's skills will be applied to completing the creation of a new employment equity plan for the University and to implementing the recommendations of the new plan.

In the Office of Human Rights, the successful candidate will be joining a dedicated staff of four that focuses on services to support the human rights-related needs and aspirations of the University community. Functioning in a highly diverse campus environment, the Office of Human Rights holds most dear a value for the worth and dignity of each member of the campus community and, therefore, the Office is committed to treating those whom it serves in a respectful and inclusive manner. If you would like more information about the Office and our services please visit our department web site at www.ualberta.ca/~hurights.

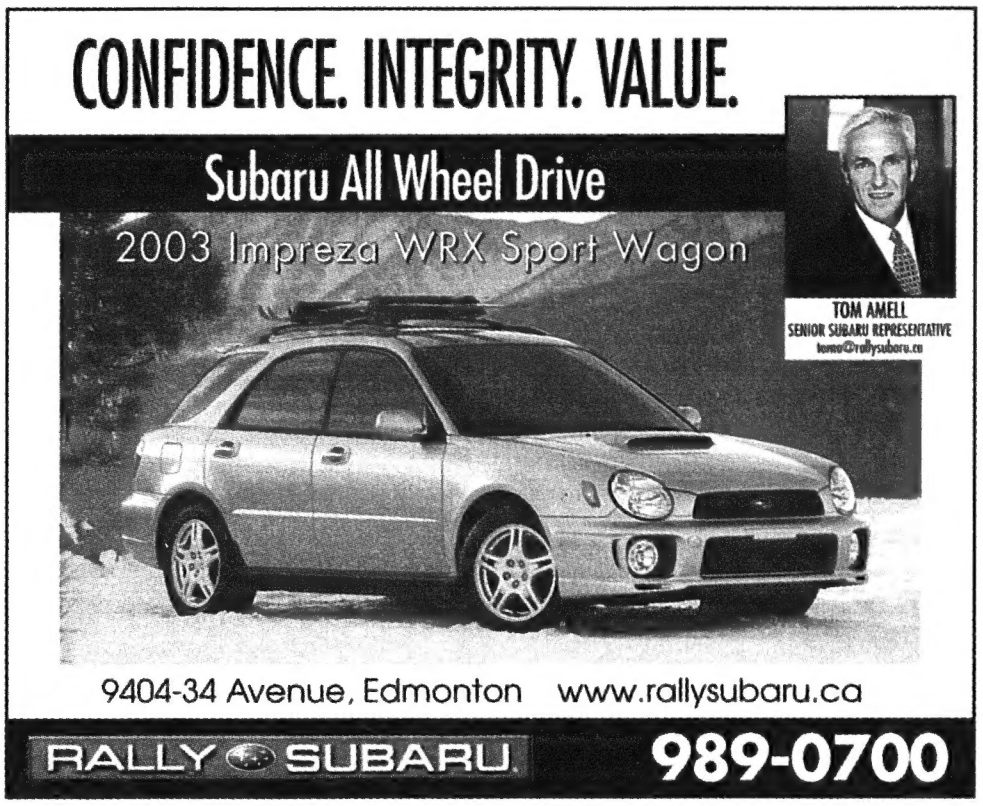
If this position appeals to you, and you have a related University degree or equivalent level of knowledge and experience, please forward your résumé and the names of three referees by February 28, 2003 to:

Janet Smith, Director
Office of Human Rights
University of Alberta
289 Central Academic Building
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2G1
janet.smith@ualberta.ca

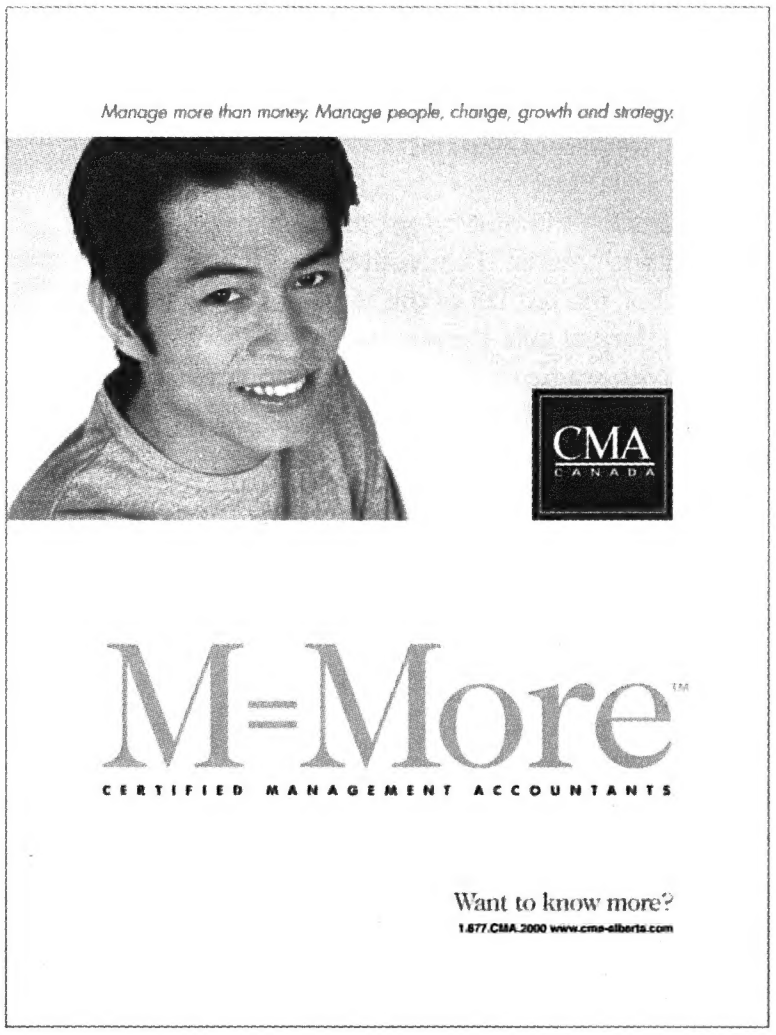
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PEER REVIEW OF INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES

The Peer Review of Instructional Technology Initiatives (PRITI) Committee is pleased to announce a new resource, the PRITI Portfolio, to assist faculty in representing their teaching work to department chairs and Faculty Evaluation Committees. The Portfolio also provides tools for faculty evaluating teaching portfolios submitted for review.

For free copies of the PRITI Portfolio, contact:

Myrna Sears at myrna.sears@ualberta.ca
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2003-2004 KILLAM ANNUAL PROFESSORSHIPS

Applications for the 2003-2004 Killam Annual Professorships are now available. All regular, continuing, full-time academic faculty members who are not on leave during 2003-2004 are eligible to apply. Deans, Department Chairs and other senior University administrators with personnel responsibilities shall not normally be eligible for Killam Annual Professorships. Associate Deans and Associate Department Chairs are eligible providing they do not have personnel responsibilities. Up to eight Killam Annual Professors will be selected by a subcommittee of the Killam Trusts Committee; no more than two Professorships shall be awarded to staff members in any one Faculty in any given year. Each Killam Annual Professor shall be presented with a $3,500 prize and a commemorative scroll. The duties of Killam Annual Professors shall not be changed from those that they regularly perform as academic staff members.

The primary criterion for selection shall be a record of outstanding scholarship and teaching over three or more years as evidenced by any or all of research publications, creative activities, presented papers, supervision of graduate students, and courses taught. The secondary criterion shall be substantial contributions to the community beyond the university, as evidenced by community involvement directly linked to the applicant's university responsibilities and activities.

Awards are tenable for 12 months commencing 1 July 2003. The completed application must be received at the Office of the Vice-President (Research), 3-7 University Hall, by 4:30 pm, Friday 28 February 2003. The awardees shall be announced by early May, and they will be formally recognized at the Killam Luncheon in the autumn of 2003.

Applications and further details are available on the home page of the Vice-President (Research) at: http://www.ualberta.ca/VPRESEARCH/

Please contact Annette Kujda, Administrative Assistant, Office of the Vice-President (Research) at extension 28342 or email: annette.kujda@ualberta.ca if you have any questions.

EFF - UNIVERSITY TEACHING RESEARCH FUND

Application Deadline

The deadline for receipt of applications to the EFF - University Teaching Research Fund is February 15.

This fund was established to encourage and support research on teaching-learning. The primary purpose of this fund is to enhance the level and quality of teaching research and curricula development in the University. Funding priorities include research projects that have the potential of contributing to the increased effectiveness of university teaching, learning, and curricula development.

Application forms are available from the Office of the Vice-Provost, 2-10 University Hall, phone: 2-1503; or from our web site

http://www.ualberta.ca/provost/awards&funding/awards&funding.htm

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY ANNOUNCES A CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The Department of Sociology invites research proposals to carry out studies on impaired driving or other related social policy problems such as chronic alcoholism, traffic safety, etc.

Interest from an endowment made by REID (Research and Education on Impaired Driving) will be used to fund the successful research proposal(s). The maximum amount available this round is $13,000, which may be used to fund one research project or divided between two (or more) smaller projects.

The competition is open to any University member conducting research relating to impaired driving or other related social policy problems such as chronic alcoholism, traffic safety, etc. It will be adjudicated by a panel of five members (three from the University and two from the contributing organization).

Proposals should be submitted to:
Dr R. Sydie, Chair
Department of Sociology
University of Alberta
5-21 HM Tory Building
Edmonton AB T6G 2H4

The competition will close on March 15, 2003. If you have any questions, please contact Fay Sylvester by e-mail: fay.sylvester@ualberta.ca

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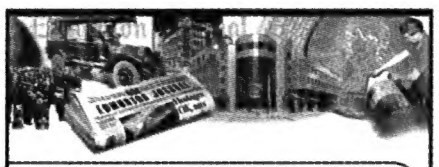
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The Edmonton Journal is looking for an experienced copy editor to work part time on the night news desk. There would be weekend work involved.

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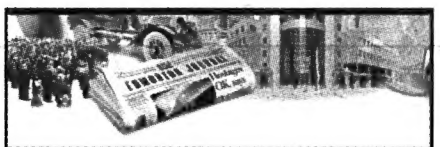


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EDMONTON JOURNAL

Emil Skarin Fund
Request for Applications

Applications to the University of Alberta Senate's Emil Skarin Fund are now being accepted. Those groups or individuals seeking financial support for a 2003 project(s) are invited to apply. Up to $13,700 will be awarded in March 2003.

Qualifying projects must:
a) be of value to both the public and the University of Alberta
b) be consistent with the general aims and purposes of the University
c) not normally be funded by the University; and
d) originate from within Alberta.

Preference will be given to projects that emphasize the humanities and the arts.

Applications, which must be received in complete form by Friday, 14 March 2003, are available from the Senate Office. To request an application, contact Marie-Claude at 492-2268 or senate.office@ualberta.ca. The application form is also available on The Senate's web page at http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/senate/

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA



Licensed to drill

Propmaster Viola Dobler can make anything

By **Richard Cairney**

James Bond had Q to develop all the little gadgets that, beyond his suave conduct, really made him convincing as a spy. The University of Alberta's Studio Theatre has Viola Dobler, propmaster supreme, to create the props actors need to help pull off their own roles.

"I can make anything," Dobler says, standing in her workshop at the Timms Centre for the Arts. "I'll make whatever you want. You can have it good, fast or cheap: you can only pick two. Something good and fast won't be cheap; something cheap and fast won't be all that good."

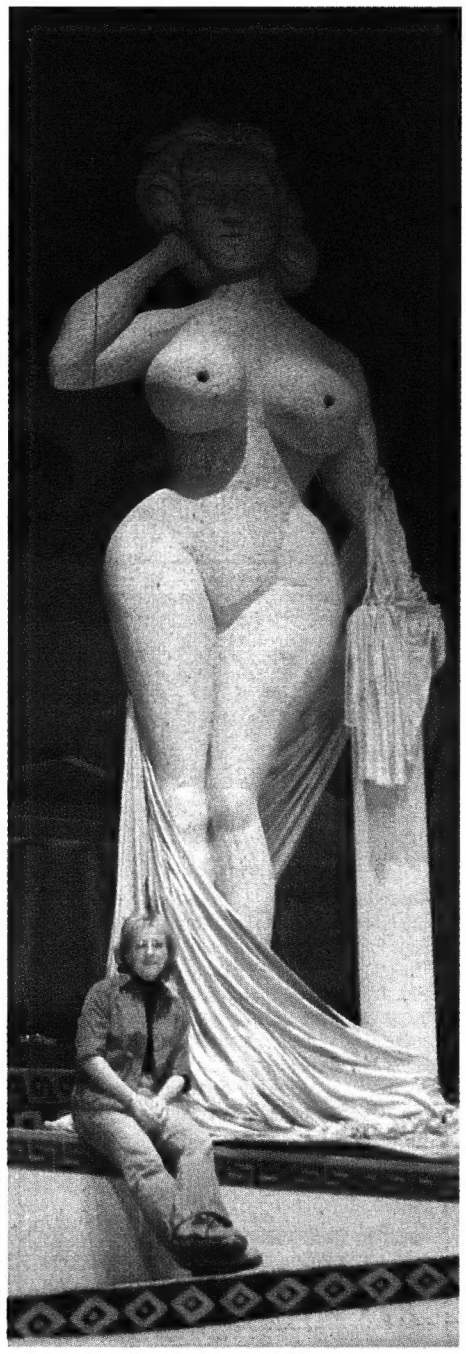
On this day in particular, Dobler is fawning over a baby she has made for the theatre's upcoming production of *Lysistrata*. The baby looks like it was made good and cheap, but Dobler confesses it took a bit of time – not nine months, but longer than she thought. It's a latex puppet that Dobler deftly manipulates with her hand. It yawns. It hollers. It smiles – or maybe that's gas. "I have a bit of a reputation for making great babies," she says, producing a heavy, limp doll that flops around in your arms like the real thing.

Dobler's shop is a magical place designers and directors come to have their creative visions brought to life. *Lysistrata*, running until Feb. 15, is designer Roger Schultz's thesis show for his Masters in theatre design. He says Dobler has been, during the shows he has worked with her, something of a partner, building on his own creative visions.

"In every instance she has become an important collaborator in the process, usually taking my initial ideas and impulses far beyond what soon appears to be my limited vision," he said.

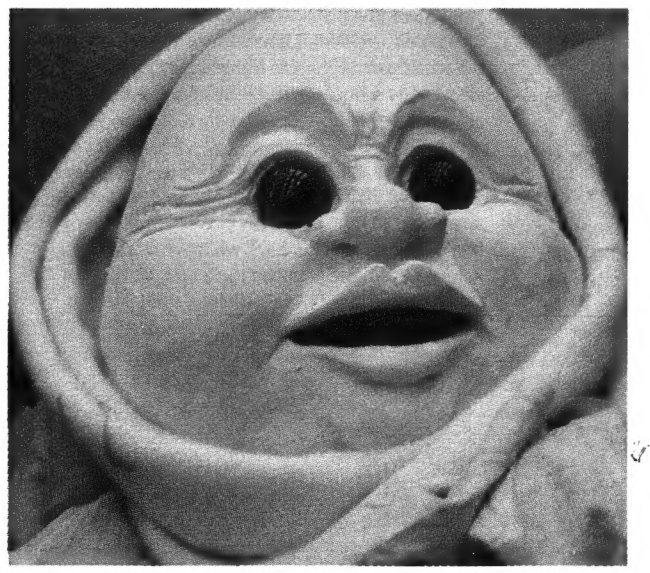
"The best designers welcome your input," said Dobler. "I can't help but put a part of myself into something I make."

Schultz describes the Studio Theatre design of the Aristophanes play as a blend of mid-1950s kitsch, ancient Greece, show girls, musical theatre tradition and sex. The play tells the story of a sex strike staged by the women of Athens and Sparta, who want to put an end to a long, bloody war.



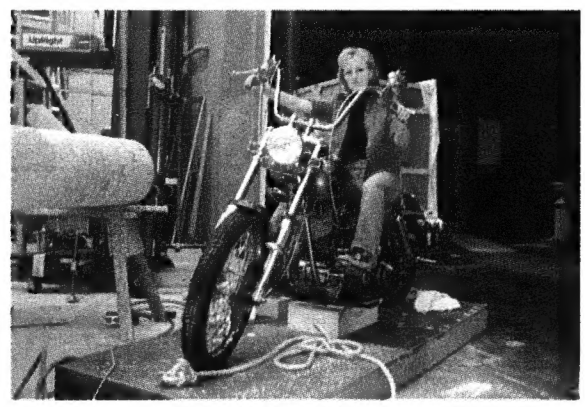
Propmaster Viola Dobler's most unusual creations include a big jar of snot. Her largest, though, must be this 16-foot-tall styrofoam statue for the current production of Lysistrata.

With its Vegas-revue style, the production called for some unusual designs, including the greatest prop Dobler has ever conjured up: a Harley Davidson motorcycle borrowed from a friend. "I come out here every day and fondle it," she says.



A baby's head, made from latex, is easily manipulated.

And while you're trying to figure out why there is a motorcycle in a play written in ancient Greece, Dobler runs down the list of other props: goblets, a wine skin, masks, a chariot, and red satin sheets and pillows "for when they make love on the bike."



Dobler's favourite prop ever: a Harley Davidson motorcycle she borrowed from a friend. It's used in a racy scene in Lysistrata.

Then, onstage, is what must be the largest prop Dobler has ever built: a 16-foot-tall statue of a very busty nude woman, hand carved from styrofoam. But it doesn't rank as the strangest prop Dobler has built.

Hauling a jar with what appears to be a pickled brain from storage, Dobler boasts of her favourite production ever, a Studio Theatre staging of *Possible Futures*. "It had a real *Twilight Zone* feel to it," she says.

Other unusual creations include a jar of snot she created for the Edmonton Odyssium. And presently, she's working on a diary for the filming of a sequel to the horror-slasher-werewolf flick *Ginger Snaps*. Dobler has researched werewolves and filled the fake diary with detailed information, providing actors something to read between takes.

But the most rewarding part of the job, she says, is in forging lasting relationships with students. "One of the most satisfying things is when somebody calls three years after they've graduated saying 'I need to make a dead seagull – how did you do that?' "

Ahem. A dead seagull?

"I told you I could make anything." ■



Dobler made plaster casts of actors' faces to help construct masks that would fit them comfortably.